

Meeting Minutes
University Athletics Council
Thursday, October 19, 2017
9:00am

PRESENT: Austin Anderson, Linda Bennett, Brody Broshears, Alex Eaton, Katie Ehlman, Brian Fischer, Andrea Gentry, Jon Mark Hall, Matt Hanka, Jeff Sickman, Angel Nelson

CALL TO ORDER: Katie Ehlman calls the meeting to order at 9:00am

MINUTES: Katie Ehlman asks for consideration of the meeting minutes from April 25, 2017. Motion to approve October minutes is made by Brody Broshears, and seconded by Jeff Sickman. October minutes are approved.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS REPORT

Jon Mark Hall reports on fall sports. Soccer has 3 matches remaining, Volleyball is half-way through, Cross-Country Conference Championships are this weekend. November brings the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame Classic cohosted with Evansville Sports Corporation at the Ford Center. Also in November USI hosts the National Championships for Cross-Country at Angel Mounds.

PAC renovation is going well; Phase I is on track, Phase II planning meeting is today.

For the 2018-19 season, Wisconsin Parkside is leaving the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) for the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC); which is predominately Michigan based. The GLVC Conference put Parkside on probation this year because of some compliance eligibility issues. A Division III institution, Benedictine University, which is near Chicago, is in the process of deciding whether to move to Division II. If they do decide to move to Division II, the GLVC will likely extend an invitation to them to join.

Katie Ehlman asks how many like universities remain in the GLVC? Jon Mark answers from a public university stand-point, there is Missouri St. Louis, Truman State, Illinois Springfield, and Missouri S&T, which is only about 1/3 of the population of the GLVC. Jon Mark adds that this is a valid concern. Brody Broshears serves on the GLVC Conference Membership Committee and is meeting next week to talk about some of these issues; including these recent drops from the Conference and how they should approach new members.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Bennett and GLVC Commissioner Naumovich attended the NCAA Division II meeting in late August. Dr. Bennett states that the NCAA Dashboard is compelling. She adds that USI is not just a minority in the Conference, USI is a minority in Division II as well. Division II has increasingly become made up of small private colleges. She states that the Council of Presidents have had conversations around trying to balance new membership with possibility of Division I schools who are choking financially, wanting to come back to Division II. She adds that has not yet been the trend. They are seeing a lot of Division III wanting to move to Division II, creating a critical mass/bringing some of their culture with them. She adds at USI's size and mission, like institutions make up less than 10% of Division II.

President Bennett points out that this University Athletics Council is represented campus wide and is involved in development, oversight, and the whole of Athletics at USI. President Bennett adds that this Council will become such an important body to the new President of this University in terms of mapping ahead for Athletics. Athletics remains a key part of life on USI campus and the success that we have in terms of our students. Dr. Bennett adds

that she is very excited about the Master Planning process when she sees the attention to the facilities; including the new arena, the PAC renovation. Also, new facilities in terms of for track and field, and some highly doable things in that Master Plan, over a period of time will continue to put our Athletic programs on very strong ground. Dr. Bennett says she appreciates the work this Council has done and continues to do, and commends its strong leadership -- Katie Ehlman and leaders before.

DATA DASHBOARD

Alex Eaton tells the Council about the NCAA's new gathering point for all information called the Institutional Performance Program (IPP). Most of the data that is in the dashboard is in this new gathering point along with a lot more information. Brian Fischer, Jeff Sickman and Alex met and looked at the Data Dashboard and would like to propose some changes. First, they recommend taking the publication away from being segmented by different sub-committees. Also, their hope is that instead of the Dashboard being all static information; they would like to see approximately ¼ of the information be new information. They do not want to increase the size of the Data Dashboard but would like to consider information that is pertinent at certain times vs. when it's not pertinent at other times. She asks that the four sub-committees look at the Data Dashboard and consider what they would like to keep and possibly even pull up the IPP and look at the information that is out there. She asks that the sub-committees make recommendations via email to Alex preferably at least one week before the next entire UAC meeting; so that she can prepare a draft. Katie Ehlman asks sub-committees to continue to consider how will we use data to make recommendations to the President and to Jon Mark and Athletics when selecting what items you would like to keep and she commends Alex and this committee for identifying this as a possible way for growth and to use other resources.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student-athlete Welfare and Equity

Austin Anderson reports that the LGBTQ Climate Survey data is in but not consumable just yet. Goal moving forward is to take that data and format it. This committee will take a look at it and plan a special session outside of the regular scheduled meeting of the UAC. He recalls that the objective is to use this data as a strategic plan goal; presenting as educational piece to Athletics coaches, staff before the start of the next school year. This committee also came up with some initiatives for their other strategic plan goals and will be reporting on those going forward. Regarding the Gender Equity Monitoring Plan which is a 3-year plan, going through one each year. This survey is in the sixth year/second time we've gone through year 3 – interest and abilities. Process will again be to add some questions to Assessment Day, revamping by asking more targeted questions. The whole equity monitoring plan will be re-evaluated for 17-20 to see if it still makes sense, etc. Katie Ehlman reminds Council members that the Gender Equity Policy was one of the first policies passed by this body. She comments that she loves the fact that committee has gone through 2 cycles and is now ready to step back and look at it and see if it can be improved.

Facility program design - The initiative is that Jon Mark Hall will bring a report on the PAC renovations to educate this sub-committee each time it meets. They may also check to see if the architects have a little bit of time to come to this committee meeting.

Academic Progress and Integrity

Brody Broshears reports that this committee met and reviewed strategic goals. He states that they are ready to present updated Absence Policy language to Faculty Senate and that they are on the docket for Dec. 1, 2017. Brody says this is about clarification of the policy rather than any changes and he is hopeful that it will be move forward.

This committee continues to look at ways in which the academic world and the athletic world mix. He mentions some interesting things related to the Registrar's office in terms of auditing athletic progress and new tools through Degree Works/new Banner processes that will allow them to identify courses more easily in the Eligibility certifications. This work continues towards some Blueprint recommendations.

Athletic Peer Coaching Program continues to churn away, currently 478 individual contacts this fall. Brody adds that this program does also serve non-athletic contacts but it was created as an athletic program and he estimates a good chunk of this use is student athletes looking to get academic assistance. Expressway Dodge Career Programming Partnership continues to be well attended – 41 of 59 Sophomores, 40 of 60 Juniors, 43 of 56 Seniors attended some of the career readiness programming that Expressway Dodge is doing in conjunction with USI Career Services area. Brody suggests that Darrin Sorrels come to the April meeting and speak to the success and the uniqueness of the athletic peer coaching program as he has been instrumental with it.

Brody adds that they would also like to go back into the Bulletin and see if there are places where athletics specific language might be necessary in terms of clarification for our work with student athletes in the academic world.

Katie Ehlman comments that when she, Jon Mark Hall and Brody Broshears go before Faculty Senate, one of the key important points to mention will be that the purpose and intention in making these modifications is to offer clarity to both faculty and students.

Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning

Jeff Sickman reports that this sub-committee met and heard an update on PAC renovations from Jon Mark Hall. We also recapped the facility tour taken in April 2017 and the purposes of that tour were to discuss facility needs priorities in relation to the Master Plan, both short and long term. He gave the committee updates of the risk assessments that Brad Will is going to preform beginning in the spring of 2018 doing a review of the internal controls for summer camps.

Strategic plan goals were reviewed, with a plan to meet again in November, 2017 to launch the revenue study. A graduate assistant from Romain College of Business will go through and evaluate our revenue streams in comparison with the Conference to examine strengths and possible opportunities to enhance revenue. A similar facilities study in will be done in 2018-19.

Regarding facilities, the need that was discussed in April 2017 for permanent set of bleachers for softball was revisited. Jon Mark Hall gave the committee an update on some of the work he has done with Jim Wolf with Facilities Operations for some facilities locally for some solutions and some pricing. This sub-committee approved an endorsement of the purchase of the bleacher system up to \$60,000.00 Committee discussed challenges that are associated with the elimination of PAC 200 for indoor practice facilities for Baseball and Softball and some of the things that needed to be done in the short term to meet that need. Jeff reports that he spoke with Steve Bridges about possibility of using project funding because the displacement from the PAC has resulted from that project. Efforts continue to try to come to a solution that is amicable for the teams as well as cost effective.

Committee discussed potential Swimming and Diving program and reminds that this Council approved a process for the way in which consideration for on campus new athletic programs would be started. This process will begin. The graduate assistant (mentioned earlier) will also gather data related to the cost of such program; revenues, salaries and benefits, operating expenses, scholarship costs, tuition will be generated and will provide to Jon Mark Hall. In Spring, 2018 Jon Mark could make a proposal to the sub-committee prior to the construction of phase II. Austin Anderson asks about indoor practice displacement plan, is there a long term plan? Jon Mark Hall says that the mid-term plan would be to use the current PAC 122 court(s) with dropping and removing batting cages, etc. Long term plan would be their own, separate facilities outside the PAC with their own locker rooms, etc.

Katie Ehlman suggests that perhaps having a short, brief report presented to the UAC from the graduate students doing this research would be a good idea.

OTHER

Jon Mark Hall speaks regarding philosophy of Division II. He hands out a document containing facts and figures about Division II (attached). Backside of handout contains bullet points about what Division II is about.

He brings to light four major points:

- 1) Exceptional teacher/student ratio
- 2) Best access to NCAA Championships
- 3) Supports Regionalization Model (can be frustrating but makes sense)
- 4) Community Engagement

President Bennett points out that since finally Division II has started articulating the notion of student athletes/academic success. This seems to be opening a door that has drawn in some of the private colleges that emphasize academic success but felt like that was sort of a preserve of Division III in terms of the more exclusive, private schools competing in that realm.

Katie Ehlman points out Membership Roster in packet of handouts and tells Council to be sure to point out an errors. President Bennett comments that she would like meet about Council appointments early in the spring semester so they will be in place for new University president.

Katie Ehlman reminds that there will be two meetings in the spring semester. Council will plan for Austin Anderson will do a short report on the philosophy on the LGBTQ Climate Survey, and then perhaps Darren Sorrels would be able to do a short presentation at one of these two meetings.

Katie Elhman distributes handouts regarding Dr. Bill Thomas Changing Aging 2017 Tour on November 6, 2017.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:59am.